



*St Michael's Anglican Church,
Bryanston*

VESTRY 2023

REPORT BOOK

Parish Vision

*St Michael's will be a vibrant, growing,
inclusive community of God's people.*

Diocesan Vision:

*To achieve a shared vision and practice
of the ministry of all believers.*



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The Diocese of Johannesburg
at

St Michael's Bryanston

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa



Notice is hereby given of the

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

According to the Diocesan Rules

of

St Michael's, Bryanston

on

Sunday, 10 March 2024

during the

09:00 service in the Church

AGENDA

1. Attendance Register and Apologies
2. Previous Minutes – 2023
3. Financial Reports:
4. Acceptance of Financial Accounts for 2023
5. Acceptance of proposed Budget for 2024
6. Churchwardens' Report
7. Interim Rector's Report
8. Decision as to the number of people on Parish Council.
9. Election of Churchwardens and Parish Councillors for 2024
10. Appointment of Verifier for 2024

Interim Rector
Revd David Edwards

Churchwarden
Mokaedi Dilotsotlhe

Churchwarden
Robert Adams

13 February 2024

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

of the Parish of St Michael's, Bryanston held on Sunday, 26 February 2023 during the combined 09:00 church service.

Opening Prayer

Revd David Edwards welcomed everyone to the Vestry meeting, which started 09:20 after the creed.

1. Attendance Register and Apologies

There were 125 people present as per the attendance register which was circulated.
Apologies – Dilys Mexson, Anne Viljoen, Sandra & Frank Delaney

2. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting were published with the vestry reports and are accepted and signed as a true record with no alterations.

Minutes were unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Martin Mealin Seconded: Merlyn Adams

3. Financial Reports:

a) Acceptance of Financial Accounts for 2022

The verified published finances were presented by Brian Smith.

The total income for the year was R5 089 645 and the total expenses were R5 023 459 with a surplus of R66 186 before transfer to special funds. R15 000 was transferred to the fixed assets reserve, R25 000 was allocated for payment to the diocese as was traditionally done and R25 000 was transferred to the roof repair fund, leaving a net surplus of R1 186. The balance sheet is sound. The major expense item from Special Funds was the replacing of the church carpets.

The 2022 finances were unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Ian Masson Seconded: Ken Stonestreet

b) Acceptance of the proposed Budget for 2023

Council approved a break-even budget with a surplus of R705.

Budgeted income of R5 477 015.

Budgeted expense of R5 461 310. The major areas for increase are:

Spiritual Formation, Clergy Stipends have been increased for the first time in three years. This is a 5% increase. Sustainable Structures, the post-retirement medical aid payments were not in the 2022 budget.

The following questions were asked and answered.

Question: Why were there no rates in the budget 2022 budget and is the figure in the 2023 budget.

Answer: As expected when the new houses were built, The upper property has now been rezoned to residential and rates have been levied on the area where the rectory and two new houses are situated. The budgeted figure is the anticipated cost.

Question: Is there a budget for the 70th celebration

Answer: There are some funds from the 2022 Patronal festival. There will be fund raising for the balance.

Question: What is tithing from income (diocesan welfare).

Answer: This is the money that is raised specifically for the retired/widowed clergy. It is reflected in the income under donations / income for specific projects and expensed as tithing from income (diocesan welfare).

The 2023 budget was unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Joel Dikgole Seconded: Thandi Chaane

4. Churchwardens' Report

The churchwardens report had been circulated.

Mokaedi presented highlights in the report on behalf of all the wardens and thanked everyone for their help in giving of time and talents each year to help maintain the church.

Highlights mentioned are as follows:

Work to repair the Bolton block roof is underway and it is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2023

Expenses were aligned to the diocesan vision.

Thanks to the portfolios for all their work over the last year, especially hospitality and fundraising.

Social responsibility met all its obligations.

Thanks to the parishioners for their generosity with the appeal for the KZN flood relief.

Technology - There is a plan to link the church to the hall.

Alternative energy – the maintenance portfolio is looking into ensuring the church and office can function during load shedding.

Welcomed Revd David Edwards and assured the parish that finding a new rector is underway.

It was a bitter sweet year with saying farewell to Ven Moses and Revd Alison Thabethe. Ven Moses was thanked for his leadership and all the clergy were thanked for their dedication over the last year. We are grateful that we have an experienced leader to guide us into this year.

The following questions/comments were asked:

Question: What is the budget for the 70th celebrations?

Answer: No formal budget has been put together. It has been agreed by the committee that it must not come at any great cost to the parish funds.

Question: In being transparent why did we not disclose the amount raised for the Thabethe's farewell gift?

Answer: An amount of approximately R19 000 was raised and passed on to them. This occurred post year-end in January.

Question: How do we encourage youth and young adults into the parish?

Answer: This will be a focus for 2023 and council is willing to take any suggestions that people have.

Comment on the above answer: It was felt that this question was not answered sufficiently and there needs to be a positive active discussion.

Akanani Makhubela-Osuafor, a youth leader responded that a lot of young adults leave the church as they have been "forced" to attend. They want to take time off before they choose to return.

Siyavuya Mhlanga mentioned that discussions on this had already started at the Welcome evening and hopefully we will see a change this year.

Question: Is there a health and safety portfolio? Where and how do we report any injuries/accidents?

Answer: No, we don't have a portfolio. Any incidents should be reported to the office.

Comment– It was requested that everyone accept that Exco and Council are our representatives to the diocese and that any incidents be dealt with in a manner that does not disrupt or disturb the community.

There being no further questions or comments, the warden's report was unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Thandi Chaane Secoded: Nkhensani Makhobela

5. Rector's & Interim Priest-in-Charge's Reports

Ven Moses Thabethe was not present to answer any questions, so his report was taken as read.

Revd David Edwards commented on how well run this church is and that it has recovered well from covid, and he feels that it is an amazing vibrant community. The council and wardens have done a wonderful job over the last year. The administration and ground staff are excellent. We have well structured services.

The reports were unanimously accepted with no questions.

Proposed: Sagren Pillai Secoded: Rob Lloyd

6. Decision as to the number of people on Parish Council.

Number of people will be ten (10) for council and four (4) for wardens and one (1) treasurer giving a total of 15 members on council.

A council of 15 members was unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Ken Stonestreet Secoded: Tebogo Motlhamme

7. Election of Churchwardens and Parish Councillors for 2023

It was proposed that we accept all duly nominated councillors, wardens and treasurer and this was unanimously accepted.

Church wardens: Rob Adams, Mokaedi Dilotsotlhe, Siyavuya Mhlanga, Shirley Duma

Treasurer: Brian Smith

Council:	Discipleship	Linda Chipunza
	Fund raising	Loyiso Majija
	Hospitality & Events	Sizakele Ngwenya
	Maintenance	Merlyn Adams
	Social Responsibility	Azande Ntshangase
	Youth	Akanani Makhubela-Osuafor

The following were proposed and accepted to council by Vestry.

Communications	Ian Masson
GIFT	Nobathembu Dyantyi
Pastoral Care	Norma Tsotsi

There is no representative for Worship and council can co-opt a person for this portfolio.

8. Appointment of Verifier for 2023

Andrew Slawson was approved to be asked to continue as our verifier.

Proposed: Brian Smith Secoded: Joel Dikgole

The service continued with the prayers at 10:45

ANDREW WILLIAM SLAWSON
Member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
Membership number 03343382

21 Devil's Tooth Place
Glenvista Ext 6
2091

Report by the Independent Verifier
to the Members of the Parish of St Michaels, Bryanston

I have reviewed the attached annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, which were prepared on behalf of the Council by the Treasurer. From my review I can confirm that these annual financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records of the Parish and that, in my opinion, adequate records have been maintained. It is not possible to verify income before it is recorded in the accounting records as cash received.

I note that the following matters which are referred to in the Stewardship Report by the Rector and Church Wardens will be brought to the attention of the Parish Council and will be tabled at Vestry:

None

I further report that the following matters have not been included in the Stewardship Report and have not been resolved to my satisfaction:

None

Opinion

Subject to the above comments, in my opinion, the attached Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023 fairly represents the financial position of the Parish at that date, and the Income Statement fairly represents the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.



AW Slawson
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Independent Verifier

18 February 2024

Income Statement as at 31 December 2023

INCOME	2023	2022
Parish affairs		
DG, Tithes, Dues, etc.	3 786 013	4 010 319
Collections	581 133	428 429
Donations, thanksgiving and bequests	418 935	399 907
General fundraising	66 305	67 700
Special Efforts	30 000	30 000
Other Income	15 000	
Donations/Income for specific projects (Social Responsibility)	70 000	50 000
Financing income		
Interest Received	167 573	103 289
Gross income	5 134 959	5 089 645
EXPENSES		
1. Spiritual formation		
Quiet days and retreats	1 420	5 400
Clergy costs paid by parish	248 496	469 344
Clergy stipends paid through Diocese	802 984	851 623
	1 052 900	1 326 367
2. Vibrant Christian Community		
Church expenses (Including welcoming)	4 240	3 674
Sanctuary Expenses	11 452	8 801
Worship expenses	143 557	159 152
Diocesan contribution	640 008	587 760
	799 256	759 387
3. Social outreach		
Educational support	105 000	100 000
Feeding schemes	131 217	101 118
HIV/AIDS	8 190	7 800
Home based care	60 133	45 937
Poverty alleviation	18 000	60 000
School, hospital, prison ministry	35 912	36 987
	358 453	351 842
4. Visionary servant leadership		
Catering	6 314	525
Synod	3 600	
	9 914	525
5. Prophetic relevance		
Diocesan Welfare - Christmas Appeal	30 000	30 000
Sunday School Expenses	4 235	1 676
Youth Expenses	2 392	4 349
	36 627	36 025

Income Statement as at 31 December 2023 continued

EXPENSES	2023	2022
6. Sustainable structures Administration expenses		
Audit/accounting fees	3 000	3 000
Bank charges	15 602	9 421
Insurance	49 665	43 330
Municipal charges (Lights & Water, etc. - NOT Rates)	231 517	203 160
Rates and Taxes (Not payable on church property)	124 952	18 804
Office administration & Consumables	458 016	376 659
Post Retirement costs - clergy and laity	-	-
Repairs and maintenance excluding property	106 506	80 965
Repairs and maintenance to property	80 724	84 485
Security	384 372	380 908
Staff Costs (UIF, Pens Contribution etc.)	197 470	201 461
Staff Salaries (Laity)	1 207 301	1 147 119
	2 859 126	2 549 312
Total expenses	5 116 277	5 023 459
Surplus / (Deficit) before tax	18 682	66 186
Taxation on commercial activity		
Total taxation	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after tax	18 682	66 186
Transfers to (from) Funds	15 000	65 000
Net Surplus	3 682	1 186

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Accumulated Funds (Retained Surplus)		7 643 774	7 642 588
Prior year correction			
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		3 682	1 186
Surplus Carried Forward		7 647 456	7 643 774
Special Purpose Reserves	2	4 404 145	4 413 973
Total Reserves		12 051 601	12 057 747
Represented by:			
Fixed Assets	1	7 615 765	7 615 765
Land & Buildings		7 615 765	7 615 765
Motor Vehicles		-	-
Furniture and Fittings		-	-
Church & Office Equipment		-	-
Investments		-	-
Loan Deposit Fund		-	-
Special Purpose Investments		-	-
Other Bank Investments		-	-
Current Assets		4 982 982	4 815 946
Debtors and Prepayments		10 500	2 370
Deposits with Municipality		756	349
Current Account		4 968 956	4 809 868
Petty Cash		2 770	3 359
Less Current Liabilities		547 146	373 963
Creditors		547 146	373 963
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		4 435 836	4 441 983
Total Assets		12 051 601	12 057 747

NOTES to the Financial Statements

Note 1 Fixed Assets Buildings

Buildings are shown at cost in the financial statements. All buildings were professionally valued during 2020

The insurance value at 31 December 2023 is R32 500 448

In terms article XVIII of the Constitution of The Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

Ownership of all property, both moveable and immovable is vested in the Trustees of the Diocese of Johannesburg

The title deeds of all property are retained by the Diocesan Office, St Joseph's Diocesan Centre c/o Good and Herman Street, Sophiatown.

Note 2 Special Purpose Funds

Name of Funds	Roof Repairs	Choir	Fellowship	Fford Fund	Fixed Assets
2023					
Balance brought forward from Prior Year	278 823	5 040	98 064	1 814 947	54 202
Deposits into Fund			30 350	137 363	
Transfers into Fund (Income Statement)					15 000
Sub Total	278 823	5 040	128 414	1 952 310	69 202
Transfers out of Fund (Income Statement)					
Payments out of Fund	-5 750	-3 050	-25 182		-5 799
Closing Balance	273 073	1 990	103 232	1 952 310	63 403
2022					
Balance brought forward from Prior Year	274 451	6 120	95 842	1 738 131	39 202
Deposits into Fund			16 250	76 816	
Transfers into Fund (Income Statement)	25 000				15 000
Sub Total	299 451	6 120	112 092	1 814 947	54 202
Transfers out of Fund (Income Statement)					
Payments out of Fund	-20 628	-1 080	-14 028		
Closing Balance	278 823	5 040	98 064	1 814 947	54 202

Note 3 Creditors	2023	2022
Accruals	255 656	124 170
Annual DG	87 290	100 925
Library Fund	500	500
Brothers Breakfast	-	3 710
Christmas Appeal	24 340	4 090
Diocese (surplus)	-	25 000
Municipal Rates Arrears	44 337	-
Mothers Union	78 901	86 242
Parish Retreat	5 200	-
Patronal Festival	-	5 569
70th Gift	3 166	-
Retirement Fund	47 756	23 756
	547 146	373 963

Special Appeals & Youth	Garden of Remembrance	Ministry Development	Other	Theological Education	Major Maintenance	Bequest	Good as New	Total
32 462	49 693	23 881	72 607	57 960	401 316	1 429 678	95 301	4 413 974
28 170	6 500		5 000		2 150		71 665	281 198
								15 000
60 632	56 193	23 881	77 607	57 960	403 466	1 429 678	166 966	4 710 172
								-
-5 394			-11 138			-179 713	-70 000	-306 027
55 238	56 193	23 881	66 469	57 960	403 466	1 249 965	96 966	4 404 145
30 367	42 593	23 881	58 336	57 960	399 516	1 745 558	98 335	4 610 292
2 095	7 100		28 000		1 800		46 966	179 027
								40 000
32 462	49 693	23 881	86 336	57 960	401 316	1 745 558	145 301	4 829 319
								-
			-13 729			-315 880	-50 000	-415 345
32 462	49 693	23 881	72 607	57 960	401 316	1 429 678	95 301	4 413 974

Retirement Fund - Income Statement at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Income on funds invested	65 997	40 117
Donations received	-	-
Write up/(down) value of investments	157 115	(124 577)
	<hr/> 223 112	<hr/> (84 460)
EXPENSES		
Management Fees	22 560	23 293
	<hr/> 22 560	<hr/> 23 293
SURPLUS for the year before grants		
	200 552	(107 753)
Grants to beneficiaries		
	<hr/> 144 000	<hr/> 132 000
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year		
	56 552	(239 753)
SURPLUS brought forward		
	<hr/> 96 593	<hr/> 336 346
SURPLUS carried forward		
	<hr/> <hr/> 153 145	<hr/> <hr/> 96 593

Retirement Fund Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
TRUST FUND		
Balance transferred from St Michael's Trust Fund	1 387 695	1 387 695
Balance brought forward		
Fund administration - deficit per income statement	153 145	96 593
	<hr/> 1 540 840	<hr/> 1 484 288
Represented by:		
INVESTMENTS		
Unit Trusts at market value	1 493 084	1 460 532
CURRENT ASSETS		
St Michaels	47 756	23 756
Account receivable		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Account payable	-	-
	<hr/> 1 540 840	<hr/> 1 484 288

Retirement Fund Notes on Financial Statement

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared incorporating the following principal accounting policy.

Investments

Investments are held at book value. Any write-downs or write-backs to carrying value are recognised in the income statement.

2. TAXATION

The Fund's income is not taxable in its hands due to it being a component of St Michaels Church.

3. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

No cash flow statement has been prepared as, in the opinion of the trustees, the cash flow information is readily apparent from the annual financial statements presented on Retirement Fund page 12

4. DISTRIBUTION EVENT

In terms of a Deed of Transfer dated 28 February 2012 between the trustees and the Parish Council of St Michael's Church, the Trust Capital was distributed by the Trust to the Parish Council on 29 February 2012.

St Michael's 2024 Budget

	2024	2023
Income		
<i>Parish affairs</i>		
DG, Tithes, Dues, etc.	4 407 070	4 575 044
Collections	587 086	424 971
Donations, thanksgiving and bequests	256 000	200 000
General fundraising	110 000	100 000
Special Efforts	30 000	30 000
Donations / Income for specific projects	70 000	70 000
<i>Financing income</i>		
Interest Received	288 797	77 000
Rental of Property	30 000	-
Gross income	5 778 953	5 477 015
Expenses		
1. Spiritual formation		
Clergy costs paid by parish	472 108	489 391
Clergy stipends paid through Diocese	995 184	900 241
	1 467 292	1 389 632
2. Vibrant Christian Community		
Church expenses (Including welcoming)	4 450	2 628
Sanctuary Expenses	12 930	10 926
Worship expenses	143 208	175 083
Diocesan contribution	639 252	640 002
	799 840	828 639

St Michael's 2024 Budget *continued*

	2024	2023
3. Social outreach		
Educational support	110 250	105 000
Feeding schemes	125 760	102 924
HIV/AIDS	8 650	8 190
Home based care	62 520	48 132
Poverty alleviation	18 000	63 000
School, hospital, prison ministry	39 080	37 028
	364 260	364 274
4. Visionary servant leadership		
Catering	1 500	1 500
Synod	-	3 500
	1 500	5 000
5. Prophetic relevance		
Diocesan Welfare	30 000	30 000
Sunday School Expenses	8 500	8 500
Youth Expenses	8 500	8 500
	47 000	47 000
6. Sustainable structures		
Audit/accounting fees	3 000	3 000
Bank charges	15 880	10 255
Insurance	48 235	50 055
Municipal charges (Lights & Water, etc. - NOT Rates)	273 074	210 455
Rates and Taxes (Not payable on church property)	58 217	52 740
Office administration & consumables	451 731	397 378
Post Retirement costs - clergy and laity	110 520	203 000
Repairs and maintenance excluding property	114 343	88 678
Repairs and maintenance to property	73 435	65 086
Security	404 156	404 846
Staff Costs (UIF, Pens Contribution etc.)	226 956	214 996
Staff Salaries (Laity)	1 304 421	1 126 276
	3 083 968	2 826 765
Total expenses	5 763 860	5 461 310
Surplus / (Deficit) before tax	15 093	15 705
Surplus / (Deficit) after tax	15 093	15 705
Transfers to (from) Funds	15 000	15 000
Net Surplus	93	705

Treasurer's Report

Brian Smith

As we navigate these difficult times, I would like to thank the community of St Michaels for the great support given to the church during this period and sincerely hope that we will, with God's guidance continue to be able to worship in the manner that we are used to. At the half year I was desperately concerned as our revenues were way below expectations and we appealed to this wonderful congregation at St Michaels and sought God's help to restore the position. Given the circumstances, St Michaels parish has succeeded in delivering a good set of results for the financial year ended 31 December 2023. We ended the year with a small surplus of R18 682 before transfers to special funds. An amount of R15 000 was transferred into the Fixed Assets fund to cover future capital requirements. The surplus of R 3 682 which remains has been added to the retained income. We are truly grateful to God for his blessings and give thanks for His great provision, help and guidance in these challenging times.

Deposits into special purpose funds amounted to R 281 198 largely driven by the Fford Investment fund interest received. Payments out of special purpose funds amounted to R306 027, largely due to the cost of acquiring an inverter and batteries to cover outages from loadshedding and TV screens to cover overflows outside and in the hall when we hold very large services. The Balance Sheet is supported by cash reserves of R 4 968 956.

Income

The key elements that make up the bulk of the income are Dedicated Giving/Pledges, Collections, Fundraising events, Donations and Thanksgiving, and Interest Income. Parishioners' contributions from Dedicated Giving Pledges were 5% lower at R3,8 million. Plate Collections increased by 35% to R 581 133 due to the continued return of worshippers to services. Income from Donations, Thanksgiving/Harvest were pleasing, and we are grateful to the contributors and to all the parishioners for enthusiastically supporting the Thanksgiving/Harvest drive. Our fundraising activities, continued in earnest in the current year. St Michaels hosted a golf day in November organised by the Fundraising Committee. The committee raised R 66 305.

Expenditure

I'm pleased to report that the parish met all its expenditure obligations across the six objectives of the Diocese – Spiritual Formation, Vibrant Christian Community, Social Responsibility, Visionary Servant Leadership, Prophetic Relevance, and Sustainable Structures in the 2023 financial year.

Total parish expenses (excluding special funds expenditure) increased marginally to R5.1million during the year under review. The increase was largely driven by increased clergy costs arising from having our team fully with us during 2022.

We are also pleased to report that we have paid our contribution of R640 008 to support the ministry of the Diocese. Our total contribution of R 640 008 to the Diocese represents 14.7% of our parishioner's contributions.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet is in a sound financial position and includes cash resources of R 4,9 million at year end (2022: R4.8 million). The cash resources are sufficient to cover the costs for the current liabilities and other special purpose fund requirements that may arise.

As required, our verifier Andrew Slawson, has checked our financial statements and duly signed them off as truly and accurately reflective of the affairs of the parish.

2024 Budget

The Parish Council has approved a challenging break-even budget for the 2024 financial year comprised of the following:

Total Income from Parishioners contributions and other income of R 5 778 953 – this is a 12,5% increase over the prior year actual figures achieved. The economic climate in our country remains challenging, so we have set a conservative budget using 2023 actual income as a basis. We believe that, with God's help, we will achieve our income budget with the continued support from our loyal parishioners.

Total Expenditure of R5 763 860 – this is a 12,7% increase on the prior year actual expenditure. The budget takes account of having a full-time rector in place which will increase the costs over the prior year. The parish expenditure includes a contribution of R 639 252 to the Diocese of Johannesburg. The budgeted contribution to Diocese represents 12.8% of our parishioners' contribution. We will make every effort as done in the previous years to increase this contribution based on actual income received.

The major changes in budgeted cost increases for this year encompass a charge for post-retirement medical aid costs for the clergy for which we enjoyed a payment holiday in 2023, pending the outcome of proposals made to Synod, and for which we have budgeted R 110 520.

The budget is an extremely challenging one in an increasing cost environment and will need, as always, to be strictly managed over the year.

In Conclusion

I would like to thank the office staff under the capable leadership of our Administrator, Darryl Prangle for her great dedication in working tirelessly to manage our books and produce financial statements on a monthly basis. May God bless you all as we continue to worship our God in this wonderful environment that He has provided for our use.

Churchwardens Report

Mokaedi Dilotsotlhe, Robert Adams, Shirley Duma

For both our parish and the wider community 2023 saw the first full year of a return to “normal” after the pandemic, for which we are truly grateful. The rising attendance at services noted in last year's Wardens' Report has continued, and while we are positive about the future, we are also aware of the personal as well as financial impact that the remnants of the pandemic and the current state of our economy have on our parish.

We started the year by bidding farewell to Ven Moses Thabethe and Rev Alison Thabethe who respectively took up new positions as Dean of the Diocese of Pretoria and Chaplain for St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls. At the same time, we warmly welcomed Rev Dave Edwards as our Interim Rector, whilst in the good care of Rev Sharmain James and Matthew Wright.

The year saw two important events in the life of the parish. Our 70th anniversary celebrations took place over much of the year, with video presentations by several groups giving insight into what St Michael's has meant to them and culminating in a thanksgiving service followed by lunch on October 1st. We give thanks to all those many parishioners who contributed their time, effort and money to ensure the success of our celebrations, as well as to those who contributed to the purchase of new altar vessels for the Church in honour of the occasion.

In the wider Anglican community, the Diocesan Synod (postponed from 2020) finally took place, with the Wardens attending as the lay representatives from St Michael's. Over the past several years our Diocese has built up significant debts and this situation was a major focus of Synod. We hope and pray that decisions taken at Synod may begin a successful process of recovery and renewal in the Diocese to which we all belong.

Wardens' focus

In 2023 the work of the Wardens was firstly focused on maintaining growth and stability in the parish, more so during a period of an interregnum. With the assistance of our parishioners, we finalised the Parish Profile (an articulation of the parish's requirements for a Rector) and submitted it to Bishop Steve in March to start the recruitment process. Secondly, the Parish finances were the major area of focus as we faced a tough economic environment and headwinds in parish income. The third area of focus was on St Michael's Patronal Festival (70th Celebration) as a way of galvanising energy, pride, and growth in our parish.

Due to her increasing work commitments, Siyavuya Mhlanga resigned as a Warden and Parish Council member. Gratefully, she continued to lead the 70th Celebration Committee to successful completion of the project. We thank her for her immense contribution.

Finances

As outlined in the Treasurer's report, for much of last year there were concerns that the income of the parish was significantly lower than the budgeted expenditure. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we achieved gross income of R5.1m relative to expenses of R5.1m, resulting in a small surplus of R3k. We can report that the parish remains financially sound and are truly grateful to all who gave generously, most especially to the 70th celebration and to the Harvest appeal.

St Michael's 70th Anniversary Celebration

On the 1st of October 2023 we held a very successful patronal festival which was supported by all facets of the body of St Michael's, Bishop Steve and his Canons, the St Peter's Choir, and our sister parishes. The hospitality team did a sterling job in helping to put the event together. The total cost of the event was R54k and was more than covered by income of R106k, sourced largely through financial donations of R51k, a sum of R27k from the Women's Day event, and R17k from Thandi Chaane's 70th birthday appeal, and R11k in other contributions including funding from the parish's budget. The surplus of R52k was donated to the church.

Maintenance of our Land and Buildings

Our land and buildings continue to be well maintained. Unexpected delays were experienced in the repair of the Bolton Block roof, but we are pleased to report that work has finally begun and is on track to be completed soon. Due to the increasing risks to churches in South Africa, we have conducted a Risk Assessment at St Michael's and have put mitigating actions in place.

Activities of Council Portfolios

These are outlined in the individual portfolio reports, and we thank all the portfolio leaders for their tireless work this past year. The members of the Hospitality Portfolio were indispensable to the success of our anniversary celebrations, as were the Fundraising Portfolio members to the wonderful response to the Harvest appeal. The Fundraising Portfolio contributed a total of R288k to parish income, raised through R222k from the harvest/thanksgiving initiative and R66k from the St Michael's Golf Day. We applaud their great efforts and the generosity of our parishioners. We are again pleased to have met our social responsibility commitments.

The Youth portfolio received particular attention in 2023 and its importance was enhanced by the appointment of Akanani Makhubela-Osuafor to council as Youth Portfolio leader. The council was impressed with the plans and activities that were put in place and we are looking forward to further positive progress. We have budgeted for a Youth Minister in 2024.

Technology Capability

As was reported last year, our investment in our technology continues to pay dividends in enabling the ongoing provision of online services, virtual meetings, and parish communications. During the year, we purchased large TV screens to be used as part of a plug-and-play system to cater for the overflow services. These were put to the test during our 70th birthday celebrations. Council has further identified a need for an IT/Digital Portfolio to be led by someone with both strategic and operational skills to help maintain what we currently have, as well as to advise on strategic upgrades and future requirements as we aim to position St Michael's as a parish that keeps pace with the digital age. We appeal to anyone with the necessary knowledge and skills to consider volunteering their services in this respect.

Response to the electricity crisis

Given the increasing frequency and severity of loadshedding impacting our parish, we purchased and installed an inverter and batteries to provide back-up power to the offices and Church. These have already made a difference to those working in the office block and, while the needs of the Church are perhaps less, a positive difference has been felt there too, especially at the recent Ash Wednesday service.

Insurance

St Michael's is up to date with payments of insurance premiums, and the parish has met diocesan requirements for adequate cover.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Wardens have completed the annual review of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the parish clergy and the parish council. The MoUs are in place for Rev Matthew Wright and Rev Sharmain James.

Appointment of a new Rector

We are truly grateful to Rev David Edwards for his ongoing service as our interim Rector. Diocesan Chapter continues to search for suitable candidates to present to the Churchwardens for consideration as a permanent Rector. The Wardens continue to liaise regularly with the Bishop and Archdeacon, but this process has not been as speedy as originally hoped and no candidates have yet been presented. We continue to pray for God's guidance in this matter.

The Keeping of Records and Inventories

As required by the Canons of the Church and the Rules of the Diocese the Wardens have kept proper records and inventories.

Conclusion

This year has been an eventful one for St Michael's and our Diocese. We believe it has given the St Michael's family the opportunity to re-examine what the Church means to us and what we mean to the Church, and to bind us closer to each other and to God. In December we bade farewell to Rev Margaret Place who has decided to take time off part-time ministry. We thank her for her contributions to St Michael's over the past six years. We wish to give our heartfelt thanks to Rev Dave Edwards, Rev Sharmain James, Rev Matthew Wright, the entire ministry team, and staff for their unstinting service to the Parish, and to thank God for the dedication and generosity of His people here. We pray that God will continue to guide and inspire this Church in the year ahead.

Interim Rector's Report

Revd David Edwards

I arrived at St Michaels as Interim Rector on the 1st of January 2023 expecting to stay for three months until a permanent rector was found. 15 months later I'm still here! We understand that the search continues, and we should all be praying that the right person be found soon.

St Michael's was doing very well when Father Moses left at the end of 2022, and I'm pleased to say that 2023 turned out quite well for the Parish, even though there was an interregnum. The detail is available in the attached reports from the Wardens and the Church Council, so I won't repeat all they've said. Suffice it to say we ended the year in a strong position, having broken even financially and with attendance at all services at, or close to, pre-Covid levels.

Prospects for the year ahead look promising. Attendances are very strong, and pastoral work and Christian ministry in the community is thriving. We do not yet have a dedicated youth pastor, but our Junior Church (primary school) and Teen Church (high school) have both shown strong growth recently. Fortunately, we have sufficient teachers.

Regarding improvements and enhancements, it would be wonderful if we could have people to volunteer to operate the overhead projectors at all services. There probably is also a need for a youth pastor to develop our ministry to university students and young adults. I believe that this is the vision that the new rector will have to develop, and I reiterate the need to pray for the right person to be found and appointed soon.

I would like to thank my fellow clergy, Reverends Sharmain and Matthew, for their continued support and excellent ministry. Without them I would not have been able to carry out my duties properly. I would also like to thank Reverend Margaret Place, who was an assistant here until retiring (again!) in December 2023. She really made her mark and is missed by all. I would like to thank our parish ministers for their commitment and service as well as all those involved in Sunday school. Their contribution is immense. The office staff, too, work tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly in the beautiful buildings and grounds of the church. We are blessed to have all of them, and I'm sure you all join me in thanking them.

I would also like to thank all of you for your welcome, and for making my task so easy.

May God bless you all

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Communication

Ian Masson

Objective

Building and managing channels of communication for effective dissemination of information about the life of the church.

In July 2023, we did a survey amongst parishioners on the effectiveness of the lines of communication between the church and parishioners. The response was good. There were individual queries which were addressed directly with the relevant church member by a clergy. Generally the responses from the parishioners were that the current lines of communication were effective on the various platforms that are available to parishioners. Most popular communication platform amongst parishioners is the weekly pew leaflet.

Going forward into 2024, we will continuously look out for ways to improve communication. We recommend that our parishioners to inform us of any new ideas they may have regarding communication. Please let Ian Masson know via the parish office.

Discipleship

Linda Chipunza

Objective

Fostering the fellowship and community within the parish of St Michael's and the surrounding areas.

During 2023, the following activities formed part of our work.

We recruited 4 new vibrant members to a committee that had dwindled in the past year. Committee members were involved in the organization of the Women's Day high tea on 9 August 2023, as part of the 70th celebrations. Some members were also involved in the distribution of knitwear made by some of the ladies in the church in conjunction with Sisters of Dorcas small group. Members continue to fish out new parishioners and encourage them to stay for tea, meet other parishioners and make new friends.

The highlight of the year was the hike, which was held at the Walter Sisulu Botanical gardens and was attended by 18 parishioners and Revd Matthew Wright. In true spirit of a hiking outing, some went up the mountain and had an opportunity to view the City of Johannesburg, while others took a walk around the gardens and yet another group sat together, getting to know each other better. The walk was followed by a hearty breakfast. Some parishioners expressed the desire to have similar outings more often while a suggestion was also made that one weekend, possibly on a Saturday, St Michael's hosts a service in the beautiful gardens. Many other Christian groups were observed conducting their prayers there.

Fundraising

Loyiso Majija

Overall objective

Fundraising to supplement parishioner's income and assist Exco with investments if necessary.

What a busy year we had in 2023, from the start of it to the end, culminating in the 70th Anniversary of our church. In all the events that took place, the parishioners financed out of their pockets and carried them out superbly. Council thanks all of you.

Mrs Thandi Chaane celebrated her 70th birthday in May, and the collection of R17,000 was contributed to the church. Sisters of Dorcas and Mothers' Union, two church small groups under the Discipleship portfolio, organised a very successful High Tea to celebrate Women's Day, and this project contributed R26,000.00 to the church. The parishioners contributed generously in money, groceries and skills towards 70th celebration, and what a successful event that was! A big thank you to all the parishioners.

Mama Thandi Chaane and Shirley Duma initiated a collection from the parishioners towards a gift for the parish, as a commemoration of the 70th Anniversary. This collection resulted in a full set of beautiful gold-plated chalices, ciboria and tray being acquired for the church.

The St Michaels Finance Committee initiated two successful events. In October the Golf Day contributed R66 000 to the church. We thank all the golfers who participated, including the St Michael's golfers, who have faithfully supported this event for years. In November the Finance Committee kick started the Harvest/Thanksgiving event, which is a yearly event whereby the parishioners thank God for all He has done for them. This event contributed a whopping R221, 800 to the church. A big thank you to all those who made this such a successful event.

All these events resulted in a sound financial position for our church, and thus a big thanks you to each one of St Michael's parishioners. You had to dig deep into your pockets to contribute without any complaints. Well done for 2023. Above all, we thank God who has enabled us to do all these things, and who has whispered in our hearts to give. All glory to Him for ever and ever, Amen.

Growing In Faith Together

Nobathembu Dyantyi

Objective

To promote spiritual growth to ensure a deepening relationship between parishioners and God.

The GIFT portfolio focused on two key activities in 2023 being the revival of the library and the parish retreat. The Parish retreat was planned for Oct 2023 however we had to postpone due to unforeseen circumstances from the venue. The retreat is now planned for the 8th – 9th of March 2024.

We made strides in reviving the library under Mxolisi's leadership. We ensured that the latest software was implemented for tracking of library books and management.

Hospitality

Sizakele Ngwenya

Objective:

To provide a welcoming environment for the Church's Visitors, Parishioners and Church Events.

Farewell Luncheon for Ven Moses & Rev Alison Thabethe.

The Parish Administration Office allocated R7000 towards catering of the Farewell event and bulk of the food items were donated by Parishioners. The main food theme was Bring 'n Share with a flare of the main warm meal being cooked by the Church Events Hospitality Group at the Church Kitchen facility. The event went very well, with encouraging feedback and compliments from many who attended. The Celebrants expressed their gratitude and appreciation for a sterling outstanding celebration in their honour.

Shrove Tuesday – 21 February 2023

Shrove Tuesday went very well with generous donations received from Church Smaller Groups: Sisters of Dorcas; Mothers Union; Junior and Teen Church; Youth; Pastoral Care; Discipleship; 30 Something and Church Parishioners. Most Pancakes were done by the Hospitality Committee and Mothers Union made Amagwinya for the evening. There were enough pancakes and Amagwinya and the evening went very well with great attendance.

Special Admissions to Communion – 28 May 2023

The Hospitality Team assisted to host teas and eats for families that were celebrating the special admissions to First Communion of their family members. Some of the families donated eats and drinks and the event went very well.

Women's Day High Tea – 9th August 2023

The event was organized by the Fund Raising Committee, of which some of the Hospitality Members are part of. Ms Lerato Mbele and Oaratwa Lephalo from Youth, were MCs of the day. The event was a great success with Dr Jiyane, a Renowned Clinical Psychologist, blessing the occasion as the Guest Speaker. We had other two speakers for the day: Ms Joan Thomas Edwards, the Jamaican High Commissioner to South Africa and Mrs Janice Hawkrige. The event itself was a great success, we hired a Caterer, The Culinarian Chefs Academy, who delivered a lovely finger lunch. Zinzi and Décor Team did a fantastic beautiful High Tea setting, using donated decor items from members of MU and SOD. Flowers and food were paid for from the proceeds of the fund raising activities that were done prior to the event, with some cash reserved for the 70th Jubilee Celebration. We had a fashion parade; best & funny hat and wine auction.

New Member Orientation – 8th September 2023

The Orientation meeting was held on the 8th September at 18.00 at the Church Hall. Out of almost thirty people that had confirmed attendance, only half of them managed to attend but the orientation went very well.

Patronal Festival & 70th Jubilee – 1st October 2023

Hospitality Team engaged The Culinary Chefs Academy (TCCA) to cook for the event and they drew up a list of food items based on the menu for the day. A list of food items was displayed at Church, in all Church Services throughout the months of August and September and Parishioners graciously donated most of the food items in physical form and in monetary form. TCCA cooked outside Church and delivered food on the day of the event. Whilst the food was good, it unfortunately allegedly caused a health issue with a few people that reported discomfort and some stomach illnesses. After investigation and numerous lengthy discussions on the matter, it was concluded that there was a stomach bug that was prevailing at the time and the matter was closed.

Conclusion:

The Hospitality Committee is gaining momentum and is quite active with the support of other Parish Portfolios and Church Smaller Groups in all events that the Church hosts.

Maintenance

Merlyn Adams

Objective

To assist the churchwardens in their duty of maintaining the property

During the course of 2023, day to day maintenance was done as necessary. Fire extinguishers and gas supply were inspected and the necessary certificate was received from the Joburg Fire department. Gardens were well maintained by the vergers and gardeners.

The following major projects were undertaken and completed:

1. The installation of audio visual outside the church.
2. The installation of backup power for the office block and the church.

The following projects were started or ongoing during 2023 and are expected to be completed in 2024

1. The repair of the Bolton block roof.
 - ◆ After discussion with the architect and heritage foundation it was agreed to repair the slate roof rather than changing it. After receiving the necessary quotes a contractor was approved by Council and the work will commence after the rainy season in 2024 with minimal disruption to the office.
2. Compiling a Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Risk Assessment for the church.
 - ◆ A draft HSE document was approved by council and this will be completed in 2024. An HSE team will meet on a regular basis and report to council under the maintenance portfolio.
3. Install backup power for the guard house.
 - ◆ The maintenance portfolio has been tasked with getting the necessary quotes to ensure that the security system remains functional during load shedding.

Pastoral Care

Norma Tsotsi

Objective

To minister to people who are facing challenges in their lives, emotional, physical or spiritual, and who seek help.

ANGLICARE

This is a 40 year old organization of Anglicans throughout the Johannesburg Diocese. These parishioners, all over Johannesburg, have committed themselves to train initially and ongoing to “Listen to people who are in need of support”. We call ourselves Anglicare Lay-Counsellors. We are not psychologists and our training ensures that we do not take on what a professional should do. We refer when the case is more serious than we can handle. We often work in tandem with psychologists and are bound by our constitution to receive supervision, whether counselling, or not, once a month with a practicing psychologist and to attend 5 of eight Saturday morning training sessions.

The organization is recognized by the Bishop and we are one of the many portfolios that make up the Diocese of Johannesburg. Our financial records are submitted to the Diocese annually. The organization was set up to support and unite our Anglicare lay counsellors and to assist our parish priests to listen to people in our communities (not always Anglicans) in times of discomfort or trouble.

WHO WE ARE?

We are Anglicans and members of a parish in the Diocese. We are vetted and recommended to Anglicare by our parish ministers and their Church Wardens, we are interviewed by members of the Anglicare Executive Committee, for suitability for this mission.

After training we have to obtain a police clearance certificate and have to sign the Safe Church declaration and are then issued a license from the Bishop which is presented to us in a service at our own parish in front of our fellow parishioners. We are then ready to begin our ministry as lay counsellors.

Our license lasts for two years – We are then recommitted as parishioners of good standing by the Parish priest and church warden and all the documentation is re submitted and we are re – licensed.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our ministry is to listen, to walk alongside our clients until they are ready to make the choices best for themselves. Very often people in trouble do not want to talk to a counsellor in their own parish and we facilitate the opportunity to talk to another Anglicare counsellor in another parish.

ON WHAT AUTHORITY DO WE CARRY OUT THIS MINISTRY?

Our authority to practice comes from our parish priest and church warden, a committee of the Anglicare Executive and is finally endorsed by the bishop. We all understand that this is our mission to the people of God. That it is not taken lightly, but prayerfully. That confidentiality is paramount.

We all do a 42-hour basic counselling course either through FAMSA or Narrative Therapy through the Institute for Creative Conversations (a post-modernist approach to lay counselling) which is certificated by University of Pretoria. We pay for this course ourselves or if we cannot we ask our parishes to assist us and Anglicare has limited resources to assist. We may choose to do more courses such as Prepare/Enrich, GriefShare, trauma and other specialized courses.

At St Michael’s we encourage the counsellors in the parish to get to know each other and support each other. Requests for counselling come from Anglicare, SADAC and other similar organizations, Sam Hermanus refers those who contact the church needing a listening ear to one of us, The Bereavement portfolio may refer persons for Grief counselling. Anyone wishing to get married in the Anglican church has to do a Prepare/Enrich course and we facilitate that.

The Anglicare Lay Counsellors at St Michael’s are:-

Joan Griebenow, Eunice Munzara (Prepare/Enrich expert), Mary Mbugua. Derek Lotter, Zuki Pinini

BEREAVEMENT phone calls are made, by Peggy Manganye, to families of the bereaved 6 weeks after the funeral and on the anniversary of the death.

CHF, INTERCESSORS is a dedicated ministry on its own. The team daily pray for the list of people requiring prayer, maintaining absolute confidentiality for all concerned. Sunday prayers after the services is a safe place for one on one prayer. This ministry works well under the leadership of Sam Hermanus.

HOME COMMUNION to retirement villages and those house bound are done on a roster basis or individually by parish ministers. The following retirement villages are visited for administering of the Holy Communion.

- Douglasdale Retirement Village
- The Village Bryanston
- Garden Village, Randburg.
- San Sereno Retirement Village, Bryanston
- The Lodge

It should be noted that some people who were visited are not just retirees but are quite sick and importantly very lonely. Help for grocery shopping was done and Holy Communion was also administered.

There is a need for more volunteers to this portfolio so that the visits to various people can be more frequent.

Social Responsibility

Azande Ntshangase

Objective

To manages the selection of projects to support, budget allocation and regular liaison with the projects, and meeting regularly together with all the stakeholders.

AEC - Paul Channon

1. Matrics 2022

Our year started on a real high note. We were thrilled with the results of last year's matrics, particularly factoring in the effects of 2 years of limited schooling, during lockdown, had for many. For those at certain schools, their grade 9 and 10 years were almost lost years and the learners would have suffered as a result.. As can be seen, notwithstanding this challenge, we achieved a 100% pass rate in the IEB and NSC matric exams. Unbelievably, for the first time, every single student also achieved a university entrance (Bachelors Diploma). These students are really quite exceptional.

2. Learners

We currently have 242 sponsored bursars together with a further 40 grade 6 learners and 120 grade 7 learners on our primary school programme.

3. Finances

Despite the poor performance of our investment portfolio last year, we were able to end 2022 with a pleasing surplus. Our 3 main programmes have been funded as follows:

- ◇ Sponsorship budget for 2023: R12 000 000
- ◇ Telkom for senior Saturday School
- ◇ FEMA for junior Saturday School

Funding is, however, a source of ongoing concern as it is difficult for our income to keep pace with our expenditure (affected in no small measure by inflation) and the placement of children at more expensive private schools. Our 3 major expenses are staffing (for Saturday School teachers) as well as school fees and transport for the pupils. The number of bursaries we can offer is directly in proportion to the funds we are able to raise.

4. Schools

- a. New Partner Schools. This year we have been delighted to set up partnerships with 4 new schools: Jeppe Girls, St Teresa's, St Stithians Girls Collegiate and St David's Marist Alex.
- b. St John's We were further delighted that, after St John's tested all our grade 7 boys, two of the boys were offered fully funded Centennial scholarships.
- c. Jeppe Girls - Two of our girls were also offered Ruth First scholarships at Jeppe Girls' School.

- d. Partner school issues - Regrettably St Dominic's Convent, Belgravia, was obliged to close its high school at the end of 2022, and we have just been informed that Vuleka SSB will be closing at the end of this year. It appears that the smaller private schools which charge low fees – and consequently battle to have the resources attract the better teachers – are taking strain. For some reason the Catholic schools seem to be suffering most in this regard. Maryvale College is another school which is currently having serious financial constraints.
- e. IEB Schools - With our move increasingly to the IEB schools, we are having to navigate new issues. One is the demanding standard where higher order thinking is emphasised. As a way of promoting reading with understanding, we start at grade 7 level where we have a dedicated library and reading programme. This is closely monitored to encourage a culture of reading. The high school students are encouraged to read generally, and are provided with magazines and a Tuesday Newsday printout. They also take part in the WordQuest programme where the structural formation of words is taught. Further extension now takes place on Saturdays with a new class in Further Studies in Maths (AP Maths) together with other preparatory programmes such as Reflective Learning. Then, on the cost front, there is the actual cost of writing the IEB matric exam which is in the order of R9000 per child on top of the fees.

5. Selection

As the end of every school year approaches, we start our selection process for next year. We conduct aptitude testing for prospective grade 7 pupils for our Saturday School programme. We also make final choices of the highest performing current grade 7s for the awarding of high school bursaries. Once again, sadly, the effects of lockdown's "lost schooling" years are evident. Children who attend schools in Alexandra typically have a vernacular language as their language of instruction until the end of grade 3. Some, not all, then switch to English for their remaining 4 years of primary school – already placing them at a disadvantage to their suburban counterparts who will have been instructed in English since starting nursery school. The 2 years of limited schooling meant some fundamental literacy skills and development were adversely affected. We are seeing this play out with children attaining reasonable Maths marks while their reading for meaning skills have been compromised.

6. "Wrap Around" Support

Our role is far from confined to paying the school fees and providing academic support. We offer our learners intensive "wrap around" support. Our support extends to the provision of groceries (where the needs are particularly severe), medical support including appointments with optometrists and payment for glasses, as well as dental/orthodontic work.

- a. Emotional Support - Our learners benefit from our mentor programme. They benefit from having someone supportive outside of the family structures to talk to. It is apparent that mental issues seem to be on the rise or, at least, more obvious. We are having to make regular use of the services of a social worker. Several of the concerns are extremely serious with some pupils even talking openly about suicide. Each year we find that some of the matrics feel under enormous pressure to achieve and this can render a few being to a greater or lesser extent dysfunctional. Pressure primarily comes from home as the pupils are likely to be the first in the family to have the possibility of a tertiary qualification followed by a career with a potentially good income. We have found that some of the young alumni find the transition from high school to university also challenging, and some have come back to the AEC for advice and counselling. The Alumni Committee have been proactive in putting in measures to assist those in need. As a staff, we have been discussing how best we can manage such mental health issues. Our Saturday School programme has been set up for academic support but we will have to build in more emotional support. Our first step has been to set the learners up with a well-being app that allows them to monitor their feelings and to be in contact with support when necessary.
- b. Vocational Assessments - We have conducted vocational/aptitude assessments for all our grade 11s after which they receive a report and individual in-person feedback. These assessments are of immense value as the bursars embark on tertiary and bursary applications. Moreover, we offer them the benefits of the Gradesmatch/Bridge programme which uses artificial intelligence to guide the matrics through the tertiary application process, ensuring fit between results, aspirations and institutions. The matrics are further guided as to bursaries pertaining to their chosen field of study.
- c. Meetings with Parents - We hold meetings with the parents of pupils in grade 9 to discuss subject choices for grade 10. We have held a meeting with the parents of grade 11 pupils to discuss matric preparation. After our selection of the new grade 8s each year, we hold an orientation for the learners and their parents.
- d. Maths Camp - A very successful grade 8 Maths Camp, with some fun outdoor activities, took place at Camp Discovery in Limpopo. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to acquaint ourselves with the new grade 8s and for them to get to know one another. It provides a sense of belonging to the AEC
- e. Holiday Schools - Holiday programmes took place during each of the 4 term school holidays. These have included lessons in Maths, Life Sciences, History, Accounting, aerobics and life coaching.

- f. Work-shadowing - MODO kindly helps in the organisation of work-shadowing for our grade 11s and grade 12s in the holidays. MODO allocated pupils to professionals in the careers the grade 11s and grade 12s have shown interest in.

7. Teacher Workshops

We continue to hold teacher workshops in literacy and numeracy for primary school educators from Alexandra. A local Rotary club has provided good support and is looking to secure funding from other clubs in order to extend the programme. We have held a number of workshops this year on: strategic planning; cyclic reading system; vocabulary building; reading with comprehension and numeracy.

In Conclusion I would like to thank St Michael's for all the support given so generously. We do appreciate all you do for us.

COSMO CITY

Our Soup Kitchen Project has been running for years. All Saint Fourways supplies us with frozen Soup which we collect from them once a week. St Michael Anglican Church in Bryanston provide food parcels for individual who suffer from chronic diseases.

We served our Soup Kitchen beneficiaries on Thursday every week from 9am -11am. Soup Kitchen is our main social project. We have about 30-40 families benefiting from this project, hence the numbers increase during school holidays. We purchased a loaf of brown bread for R5 instead of R10 from Shoprite. We purchase 15 Loaves at R75 per week. Sometimes we found ourselves with no bread then we had to make means to buy bread from our pockets. We refill gas to warm-up the soup.

DOLPHINS ACRE - Louise Gillespie

A year to remember for so many reasons. One of the most important is the kind and valuable monthly donation from St. Michaels. Food has been a problem and your donation is exclusively used for food purchases. We are also MOST grateful for the R1000.00 donation towards gas to help with the generator gas for load shedding. We had an armed burglary which left us stunned and having to put in additional razor wire 3 tier , along the entire 370 meters of fencing. We are still paying off the razor wire. No one was hurt but we lost equipment out of the hall.

The residents are all very well and in good health except Lynda who was diagnosed with cancer. However, she is being treated with radiation and chemo which looks as if it will be successful. She is very blessed with no kidney damage from chemo or radiation redness. We trust in the Lord. We would be most grateful for the donation to continue as it makes a tangible difference in the lives of so many who just have no family. As I'm sure everyone of us all over S.A. are suffering from the food prices which just seem to increase exponentially.

Your donation is a deeply appreciated blessing to feed the residents.

GOOD SHEPHERD STREET CHILDREN - Lynn Gibson

The Good Shepherd would like to take this opportunity to thank St. Michael's for their continued support in facilitating this outreach project. This past year has been one of change and adapting to a new direction.

On the financial front, the Good Shepherd donates to the Wikoppen Clinic and JAM (Johannesburg Awakening Minds). Chris Hervey buys groceries to the value of R1 000 and delivers them to Wikoppen Clinic once a month. These groceries are collected with other donations into food parcels for the families in need that are registered at the Clinic. R500 is donated to Witkoppem to use for people who cannot afford the registration fee to become patients at the clinic. R1 000 is donated to JAM, and they utilized it for food and drinks for the artists, who are trained by them.

The other activities of the Good Shepherd is the collection, sorting and delivering of food (passed sell by date) to 3 centres of need. The volunteers work to a roster system which works well. We welcomed Brenda Fitzgerald to help Lynn and Jacqui with the Polofield Spar food collections. Both the Polofields and Olivedale Spars continue to donate the past sell by date food to us, to distribute to hungry children. There are three organizations that benefit from this food and the sandwiches.

1. Wikoppen Clinic receives the peanut butter sandwiches, breads, rolls and sometimes fruit, to hand out to the patients who arrive very early in the morning to stand in queue to be admitted to the clinic.
2. New Life shelter for girls (Midrand) receives the cooked food, finger food, pies, breads, rolls, cakes etc, and fruit and vegetables.
3. Ratang Bana (future for children) in Alexander shares everything with New Life except the cooked food. This

third group joined us for the first time on Friday 4th September. Ingrid runs the centre with volunteers and feeds 250 – 300 children daily after school. Funding that used to come from Social Development has been stopped as of April this year. Theresa is desperate for bedding, clothing, shoes, food and finance to continue helping all these children. As of this year Ratang Bana will not have to depend on volunteer people to collect the food from St. Michaels, as they will be the proud owners of their own vehicle. There have been some problems to date, and hopefully this transport will be more reliable.

NEW LIFE FOR GIRLS - Khopotso Nakin

In the last 22 years New Life Centre has been struggling no one wanted to support because they saw that we were not improving or there was no change, but St Michaels church believed in our Vision continued to support even though you were not seeing any change. Feeding our children gave us hope that things will change one day. You really held our hand. We will not stop being grateful to you. We know we belong to St Michaels. Your support kept us going.

In 2023 IDC paid the rent and gave us a break from the owner. They added value to the work done by St Michaels at New Life Centre for all the years. Friday food from Spar through St Michaels is still coming and the children love it we are grateful. Monthly food that is bought by Lynn add value to our children. Lunch boxes are covered. Staff was paid and maintained, children were transported to and from schools. Rent was paid. Children were fed and school uniforms, Stationery and text books were bought for the year 2023 .

The Centre had a High Tea event, Children had car wash event where they were washing the cars for people who came to support the proceeds assisted with their civvies at school and their fund day payments. AGM was held in October it was advertised on Midrand paper and Midrand community group. The attendance was not bad. The last event which is SA Cricket that will be on the 14th of December in Wonders stadium. Our Children will be participating, and our stakeholder's participation will be appreciated.

Rent was paid for 3 months, we are now not owing rent, we have paid the next payment will be in February 2024 by IDC. We need to work hard to keep New Life Centre up to date with Rent as the shelter is very important. It is frustrating and painful to be on the street or to be reminded that you will be kicked out of the house because you are failing to pay rent due to lack of funding. We are grateful to God and to ST Michels Church for listening to our cry and supporting New Life Centre and keeping the Vision alive without your support NLC wouldn't be alive. We are grateful to the mothers UNION who bought boxes of toiletries and clothes for the girls it will go a long way. They also prayed with us and few children who were in as most children were at school.

New Life Centre is kindly Requesting St Michaels Church council to consider continuing to support the girls home for at least the 2 to 3 years while we are improving our finding strategy and fundraising for sustainability. Your continuous support is very essential because we have more children coming in and this is putting more strain on the Organisation as the requirement is to ensure children do not starve. It is our responsibility to provide proper meals for the kids, every day. we need your support to care and protect the children, offer better support to them alone we cannot be able to meet all the needs and to make the home unique and produce productive outcomes. Your continuous support makes the load very light, and it gives hope to us and the kids.

Transport was not paid for 8 months it is now owing 52 800. The car is going through stress as it is giving lot of challenges it needs to be paid while on the other side it needs to be fixed now and then. The reason being overloaded as it was doing 6 trips per day dropping children to and from school, collecting donations buying groceries, taking staff to the clinics with children and taking children staff to the meetings whenever there is a need.

UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN/GIRLS

One of our girls has moved to stay at the Res in Joburg, her NSFAS has paid She is now completed, and she has applied at UCT and is accepted in 2024 she will be starting her professional journey and because she only has New Life Centre to support we need support to care for her and ensure she complete well. We are receiving children from Child welfare JHB, Randburg, Roodepoort, Tembisa DSD Midrand, JHB, Benoni, Vaal, Witkopen Clinic, Nizamiye Clinic etc. We are communicating with the children who were staying at NLC now in December we had some coming in for the Christmas Party. We are working with Dischem Casworld in Midrand where our girls assist with gift wrapping. They are exposed to workplace. Our burner is placed there daily for the month of December. Currently we are not receiving any grant for the children from DSD or anywhere.

PROGRESS on DSD

We are working on building a relationship with DSD. They have started to place children to New Life Centre. Two children are placed with court orders order at the centre they are placed at Noordwyk Primary School doing grade 5 and grade 6, one of our children in grade 6 is assisting them to pick up and be on the same level though it is not easy. Two girls who have passed matric who are now at the college and doing internship with TRSS Security company in Kyalami are helping both new kids with schoolwork. We have applied at Social Development for funding 2024-25. We don't know how it will go we are just trying and hoping for the best outcomes.

CHALLENGES

New Life Centre Transport is a huge challenge. The car is not 100% it needs to be fixed to be in good condition to transport the children to and from schools. Continuous feeding the children ensuring they get basic and nourishing balance meals from breakfast, lunch boxes, lunch after school and dinner with snacks in between meals. Providing school uniforms for the children for new children, we need new school uniforms, school shoes, school bags and other basic needs like stationeries and textbooks, covers. We need more cutlery, plates, and cups. Our beds are very old they have broken and need to be replaced or rewired. We need to start an income generating project so we can be sustainable and be able to provide some basic needs for the children. eg vegetable garden, and chicken farming. Our neighbour at Bubbles Swimming pool has offered to donate 5 chickens to start the project we just need to build a proper facility for chickens.

In 2023 -24 we need to keep up the relationship with our stakeholders and improve our communication with our stakeholders. We are working on submitting proposals to different funders. We are working on the vegetable garden to be sustainable.

WITKOPPEN CLINIC

Introduction

Witkoppen Clinic (Witkoppen), a privately run, donor-funded organisation, assists more than 7,000 patients per month by providing acute, curative, and chronic disease management services; COVID-19 screening, testing and vaccinations; ante and postnatal care and immunization; family planning; mental health and gender-based violence services, laboratory investigations, poverty alleviation with food distribution; statutory crisis intervention to protect children; and an in-house pharmacy to dispense medicines and train pharmacy assistant learners. Community interventions include an orphan and vulnerable children programme with a food garden education programme. The multidisciplinary team comprises HIV pediatric specialist, doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors and a dietician. This is a one-stop service and on average each patient accesses 3 service points each visit. The cost to the patient is a maximum of R100.00 which includes medicines and laboratory investigations. This is a remarkable service offering.

Social Services Department

As part of our bouquet of services, Witkoppen has a Social Services Department that works in partnership with our medical services to ensure patients are treated in a professional and holistic manner. We have the following programmes in our Social Services Department:

1. Child and Family Care (CFC) Programme - Our Child and Family Care (CFC) Programme provides children in our area with care and assistance, protects their rights, and assists parents and caregivers with their responsibilities. Social workers counsel families, couples, and individuals. They provide intensive family support and preventative family strengthening services. We provide home visits, crisis intervention and family preservation. This includes skills development, parenting skills, support groups, and intensive support for problematic families to prevent the removal of children from them wherever possible. Witkoppen also assists with recruiting and training new foster parents. Under the CFC Programme, the Witkoppen team placed 16 new cases in foster care. Currently, we have a caseload of 182 children consisting of foster care cases, court cases and Place of Safety cases.
2. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme - Our Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme provides services to OVCs who are identified by field workers in the following informal settlements: Diepsloot Extension 12 and 13, Lion Park and Msawawa. Most of these children's caregivers are affected or infected by HIV and AIDS. The children are supported through 'kids' activity groups, skills development, food security, and empowerment of their caregivers. As such, we provide economic and psychosocial support, poverty alleviations measures such as the distribution of food parcels and strengthen the capacity of parents and caregivers to care for OVCs. Witkoppen's OVC Programme provides psychosocial services to 430 families which includes 874 children.

Conclusion

Witkoppen would like to take this opportunity to thank St Michael's Church for the support throughout 2023 and previously. We truly value this relationship and look forward to it going from strength to strength.

Through the continued partnership with St Michael's Church, Witkoppen can ensure that we make a difference in countless lives. Together we can SEE THE NEED and BE THE HOPE.

WITKOPPEN SOUP - Janet Sutherland

The Witkoppen Soup Kitchen has been running since 1992/93. We started with 8 volunteers making soup for geriatric patients who were supporting their families on their limited pensions.

The community has grown, and the number of patients needing nutritious food has increased exponentially over the years. Our challenge has been to find enough volunteers to provide a continuous supply of soup. Many volunteers juggle their time and finances to support this project. The price of ingredients, fuel costs, loadshedding and Covid 19 have all negatively impacted on our core group of volunteers. Despite this we were able to provide approximately 1700 litres of thick, nourishing soup to the patients. This equates to an average of 34 litres per week.

We do not need any financial support from St Michael's, however, we do need manpower. In 1992/93 the Soup Kitchen had 8 volunteers, providing 10- 15 litres of soup per week. By 2013 we reached a peak of 33 volunteers and were able to provide 40 – 60 litres of soup per week. Sadly since 2018, our numbers have been dropping and as of now we have only 18 confirmed volunteers for 2024 despite many attempts to get more people involved.

On the positive side, the volunteers that remain are wholeheartedly committed to supporting this project. We have managed to secure the help of St Peter's boys who have undertaken to make soup during their school holidays for community points. This will help immensely in relieving the burden of our stretched resources.

ZEVENFONTEIN EDUCATION - Nikki Leslie & Mmantime Magongoe

Firstly, thank you for all you have assisted with through the year, the donations and the chats have helped TEAM ZEF tremendously.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

ZEF has managed to assist two children in getting placed in special needs schools, and the one in his final year of school has done a gardening and woodworking course to learn a trade for after he leaves school in December. Gift let us down and never completed the school year, it is so sad when the parents don't take ownership or any interest – it's been a stressful year for us with him and cost us more financially as we only paid board, uniforms and transport for him as well as stationery. Unfortunately, his brother has dropped out of school and there is not much more we can do as his family is not interested. We have also managed to secure ID's and birth certificates for a few children and parents and thus ensured they can write their matric. This is a time-consuming task as we cannot leave them to go to DOHA without the social worker. This warrant's us to get blood tests done at hospitals and then proceed with DOHA. We have given 52 children stationery, uniforms, and other needs for school throughout 2023, as well as homework lessons, and assisted families through life issues. We have also allocated an additional R50 to the food cards given out monthly, so they are now R300.

ZEF has also had a director change, with all 3 previous directors resigning and thank fully we have three new ones – Nicola Leslie – previous Admin Manager at ZEF, Glenda Thamburan who will head social media and Nicole Sam who will assist where need be. Our social worker Mmantime has managed to stay on, although her hours and salary lower due to the limited sponsorship.

We have implemented social media releases on facebook and Instagram, trying to raise awareness and gain sponsors. Our flyer creating awareness and having sent it out via mail - has reaped one increase of a monthly donation. We have received a wonderful donation of stationery from Bidvest Waltons.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Get children onto the St Stithians Saturday homework classes.

Usher into studying to become a teacher.

Get another 56 children through the 2024 academic year.

Set up another matric in further learning.

Pay a stipend to a gent interested in doing homework sessions.

2024

We will continue with our much-needed home visits and monitoring of extra needs and try and see if we can get better homework session in place. The IDs and blood tests are a never-ending saga and take considerable time. Most of the uniform has been bought and the few remaining needed are for families we never supported in 2023 as they never held up their side of the agreement in 2022, but in 2023 handed us all reports so we have taken them on board for 2024. It shows us that they missed the donations and appreciated what we did.

It costs us R500 per child per month, for a food voucher for the child of R300, stationery and uniform and any school outing. This does not include any additional such as a jersey in winter or any additional wants/needs. The balance of the money you donated goes to the fund we use to get blood tests done and then the entire process of getting a child an ID so they can write their matric.

SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

DOCUMENTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA)

Four families were assisted to obtain documents (birth certificates and ID's). The total number of children who got documents is sixteen. A file went missing at the DHA, I must start the process again that takes ages to complete. One case is still pending – waiting for fingerprints from Pretoria. Two children have applied for smart ID cards and are waiting for an SMS notifying them that they are ready for collection.

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Two siblings were placed at two different special schools because they were not coping at the mainstream school. One child dropped out of school after working so hard to get placement for him. ZEF was not reimbursed for school fees paid for him. The children's mother has passed away and their father is not contributing to their upbringing. He promised to pay for the child's transport but failed to honour his promise. ZEF is paying for his transport and boarding fee. The children stay with their maternal grandmother.

SCHOOL VISITS

The purpose of visiting schools is to check performance of children sponsored by ZEF as well as building relationship with teachers. Most children are not doing well at school. The issues picked up at schools during the visit such as late coming, absenteeism and late coming were addressed with the children's parents.

HOMEWORK CLASSES

Homework classes are held twice a week on Wednesdays and on Thursdays at Cosmo City Exts 2 and 6. Although most children are not performing well at school, only few children attend the classes. On Thursdays the class is run at Elizabeth Paul Anglican Parish Cosmo City Ext 2. ZEF is thankful to the church for allowing us to use its premises. On Wednesdays the classes are held at one of community member's house. ZEF appreciates her kindness.

BUYING SCHOOL UNIFORMS

In October I conduct home visit to check the home circumstances of ZEF beneficiaries. The purpose of the visits is to check if the circumstances have changed or are still the same. If the circumstances are still the same, the child(ren) will get school uniform. If the situation at home has improved e.g the parent is employed, uniform will not be bought.

HOME VISITS/INDIVIDUAL SESSION/FAMILY MEETING

Done when the need arises. For example, the issues picked up during the school visits were addressed at home with the parents, some were addressed with the child and others led to family meetings where issues like drug use was dealt with.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

- Some families are not honest about their home circumstances. They do not report if they have found employment or/and have rooms rented out.
- Placement of children at special schools take a long time to be finalised.
- The application for LRB for a person who was born in Carltonville must be done at the DHA in that area. The family stays in Zandspruit. It is too expensive to make several trips to Carltonville

- Volunteers needed to assist children with their homework.
- Process of obtaining documents at the DHA is time consuming.
- Poor attendance at homework classes.
- Reminding parents to submit the copies of their children's report cards even though they signed a letter stating our expectations from them.

TASKS TO BE DONE

- To start the process of reapplying for Late Registration of Birth (LRB) at DHA for the child whose file went missing.
- To investigate home circumstances to find out if the children qualify to get school uniform or not.
- The children who performed well at primary level, their performance dropped at high school. This is a concern, some blame situation at home (poverty, marital problems). To meet those children individually and find out the real issues.

Youth

Akanani Makhubela-Osuafor

Overall Objective:

To encourage young people to learn, engage and get excited about God. To encourage them to become ambassadors of Christ and spread the gospel amongst their peers.

TEEN CHURCH - Akanani Makhubela-Osuafor

During 2023, we organised and participated in several events and activities to strengthen the bond among our youth members and promote their involvement in the life of the church.

Youth-led Worship Service: We organised a special youth-led worship service where our young members took active roles in leading prayers, scripture readings, and sharing personal testimonies. This provided a unique and inspiring worship experience for the youth.

Interactive Workshops: To promote spiritual growth and personal development, we conducted interactive workshops on topics such as faith in daily life, navigating challenges, and building strong relationships. These sessions encouraged open discussions and mutual support among our youth.

Bible Study Sessions: Our regular Bible study sessions continue to be a source of inspiration and learning for our youth. We explored relevant topics and engaged in meaningful discussions to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures.

Outreach Programs: In line with our commitment to service, our youth actively participated in outreach programs, demonstrating the love of Christ through acts of kindness and community service.

Youth-led Service: We organised a youth-led Sunday service that showcased the talents and enthusiasm of our young members. This service allowed us to celebrate the unique gifts of our youth and foster a deeper connection with the broader church community.

Future Plans and Vision

Leadership Development: Investing in leadership development programs to empower our youth to take on more responsibilities within the church. These include organising workshops and mentorship opportunities.

Increased Outreach: Exploring opportunities to expand our outreach efforts, we aim to connect with the wider community through social media campaigns, community events, and partnerships with local organisations and other parishes.

Mentorship Program: Establishing a mentorship program to pair experienced church leaders with youth members, providing guidance and support as they navigate their roles within the church.

Youth Retreat/ Camp: A new environment that encourages worship and offers our youth a space for reflection, worship, and connection with their faith.

Prayer Requests:

As we embark on new endeavours and continue to nurture our youth community, we request your prayers for guidance, strength, and an outpouring of God's grace on our youth ministry.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we work together to build a strong and vibrant Anglican community.

JUNIOR CHURCH - Jeanette la Fleur

In 2022, as we were beginning to emerge from the Covid-19 disruptions to our worship, I was reminded of this well-known verse from Isaiah 43, "Behold I am doing a new thing... do you not perceive it?".

The year 2023 is evidence that God had begun to do a new thing not only in our Junior Church but our entire youth ministry. Our attendance increased from an average of 45 children in Term 1 to between 55 and 60 children in the third term with numbers reaching over 70 on a few Sundays. However, although the harvest was plentiful the 'workers' were few. Fortunately, by the end of the year we were joined by 2 new leaders and welcomed back one of our former leaders. An appeal was made at the end of the year for more teachers, and at the beginning of 2024, another of our former leaders rejoined the team.

One of our highlights for the year was the Admission to Communion course. 28 children, representing our largest group to date, received their first Holy Communion in March and April of 2023. However, only 2 family services were held, the 70th anniversary Youth Sunday service, and the Advent Sunday family service at which our children performed a Nativity Skit.

As part of the 70th anniversary celebrations, the Junior Church collected stationery and tinned food for the Witkoppen Clinic and C.O.A.C.H.

During September, when we celebrated the Season of Creation, our children planted spinach, sunflowers and tomatoes next to the playground. One of the vergers expressed his appreciation and said that he was enjoying the spinach. The children also took home sunflower and tomato seedlings.

I would like to thank our Junior Church leaders for their commitment to the spiritual development of our children and for their dedicated service to our children's ministry. The support of our parents, MST and the wider church community is greatly appreciated.

I pray that we would be able to harness the new thing that God is doing in our ministry so that we do not only grow in number, but also grow spiritually in order to make a greater contribution to the body of Christ.

Ministries without Portfolios

St Michael's is extremely blessed to have a number of ministries which continue without the leadership of a portfolio. The members of these ministries, mostly work tirelessly behind the scenes so that the parishioners continue to enjoy the form of worship and care to which they are accustomed.

Choir - the 10:00 service is blessed with the enthusiasm of our choir under the leadership of our organist Louis Maritz. Thank you for your dedication to this ministry.

Flower Arrangers - we have four ladies who take turns in doing the flower arrangements each week, on a Friday. Sometimes it is one arrangement that is required other times they will do four arrangements. When necessary they are called in to do extra flowers for funerals. They are always willing to go the extra mile. The cost of the flowers comes from donation in memory or in celebration. The person donating the flowers can request specific colours and type of flower and the ladies do their best to accommodate the requests.

Funeral Teas - in the late 90's as part of a fund raising initiative a group of ladies offered the services of providing tea and eats after a funeral. The bereaved family paid an amount per head and the hassle of organising refreshments after the service was removed. As the years went on we realised how important this ministry is to the bereaved. It gives them a safe space to be with family and friends without the hassle. The families tell us how caring and loving the ladies are, and we are so grateful to the few ladies who have continued this ministry. Who would have thought that preparing food and pouring tea would be such an important part of a caring community. Thank you to those few who willingly fight traffic to get home after serving the bereaved.

Gardens - we are truly blessed to have such beautiful gardens. These are kept well maintained by David Mota, Tshani Moyo and Johannes Mota. A special thanks to all of them for taking initiative in the redistribution of plants and the care that goes into the daily work. We are also blessed to have Paulina Thompo and Mina Mashele who keep the buildings clean and tidy. This sometimes is a very difficult task when the wind blows the leaves in or workmen are on site. We are also grateful for the security guards who keep us safe every day.

Good-as-New Second Hand Shop - a dedicated team of ladies sort through and price all the clothes and other goods dropped off at the church. They then sell the goods on a Thursday morning and all the proceeds from the sales go towards outreach projects. Thank you ladies for the time and effort that goes into this ministry that serves the greater community.

Parish Ministers - our team of parish ministers continues under the leadership of Sagren Pillai, assisting at Sunday services as well as Thursdays and at retirement villages. The scope of this ministry is growing and we are grateful to have dedicated people willing to serve.

Readers - it has taken a few years to get the lay readers back on a Sunday. Thank you Mandlakazi Miti for the work you do in leading this ministry and to all those who are willing to read, not only on a Sunday but also at special services.

Sacristans - have you ever wondered who puts the wafers into the ciborium, makes sure there is wine at each communion service? This is the work of the dedicated sacristans. They work in teams and ensure that candles are trimmed or replaced, wafer counted, trays set, flagons filled, chalices dressed for each communion service. This truly is the house keeping of the services. It happens when very few people are around, they come in, clean, set up and go home. Thank you to each and every one of you who serves in this ministry under the leadership and guidance of Sandy O'Brien.

Servers - we are fortunate to have a small number of young people willing to serve on special occasions. During 2023, Pumi Miti trained a number of servers. This is a ministry that needs both server and parents to be fully committed for it to function. Thank you to all those who are truly committed to this ministry.

Sidespeople - welcoming people to each service, ensuring that people have a seat when they arrive is not always an easy task. Our teams of sidespeople arrive for their duty before anyone else and usually leave after everyone has already gone home. Thank you for your dedication and service in this ministry.

Tea after services - fellowship after a church service is a time when the community can get to know each other. It is always much easier to chat over a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake makes that conversation so much sweeter. Thank you to all the teams who provide eats and serve the tea and coffee so cheerfully each week.

